



The NUNES Report

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Quick Facts

In April, Rep. Nunes helped 43 constituents overcome problems with government agencies. For the year, the Congressman has directly solved cases for 134 constituents and is currently assisting 361 others.

Nunes focuses on housing at summit

At the urging of Rep. Devin Nunes, housing industry officials from around the region and state gathered in Visalia on April 23rd for the Housing Expo 2004.

As one of the most affordable housing markets in the state and with low mortgage interest rates, homebuilding is booming throughout the Central Valley.

But a low inventory of existing and new homes is driving prices up beyond the reach of the average income.

Rep. Nunes asked officials throughout the industry to address the challenges and issues they face, and come up with potential solutions.

The event drew about 145 people for the half-day conference at the Visalia Convention Center. The event was hosted by Self-Help Enterprises and Fannie Mae.

"I believe there are some legislative proposals, regulatory changes, or alterations in policy that may help relieve some of the pressures the industry is facing," Rep. Nunes said.

The conference featured speeches by economist Dr. Joseph Penbera and Robert



Dr. Joseph Penbera addresses attendees during the breakfast session of the Housing Expo 2004 in Visalia.

Rivinius, chief executive officer of the California Building Association.

Attendees got to choose from three sessions to discuss specific issues in detail. Those sessions included Home Financing, Planning Impacts and Issues, and Model Projects and Best Practices for Multifamily Homes.

As a result of some of the recommendations, the steering committee behind the conference plans to meet again to propose courses of action beneficial to the industry and home-buying con-

sumers.

Rep. Nunes has been active on housing issues in the past year, including:

- Support for the American Dream Downpayment Act
- Renewing the Dream Tax Credit Act
- The Deductibility of Mortgage Insurance Act
- Support for an itemized tax deduction for the cost of mortgage insurance

Permanent tax relief for married couples

Rep. Devin Nunes hailed passage of a House plan that will prevent tax increases on 30 million married couples. The marriage penalty relief bill will return \$12 billion to working families.

"Families are the backbone of our society, so it is only fitting that a man and wife get every financial advantage possible to make ends meet," Mr. Nunes said. "The average family of four will see their taxes rise by over \$300 if Congress doesn't act this year to make this tax relief permanent."

The House voted 323 to 95 in favor of making the tax relief permanent.

Before 2001, a married couple earning similar in-



comes paid more in taxes than two single taxpayers filing individually. Tax relief passed by Congress in 2001 phased out these penalties by providing couples a standard deduction that is twice

that of single taxpayers. The House action would continue the benefits of the 2001-passed tax relief and prevent married couples from facing tax increases.

Nunes supports troops financial relief act

Rep. Devin Nunes helped pass the "Guardsmen & Reservists Financial Relief Act," which will provide financial relief for the families of National Guardsmen and Military Reservists who have been called to serve in the war on terror.

"These brave men and women are serving to help protect all American families," Mr. Nunes said. "This legislation will help their families pay the bills while Guardsmen and Reservists put their careers on hold to sacrifice for our country."

By leaving their jobs in the private sector to fill vitally needed positions for our national defense, many National Guardsmen and Military Reservists have

taken a drastic cut in pay, placing their families in financial hardship.

H.R. 1779 — "The Guardsmen & Reservists Financial Relief Act" — allows guardsmen and reservists who are activated for more than 179 days to make penalty-free, early withdrawals from their IRA or pension fund. The bill is retroactive to cover those guardsmen and reservists who were called to service beginning on September 11, 2001, and extends to cover those who may continue to be called to active duty through September 12, 2005.

Additionally, to ensure financial retirement security for these soldiers and their families, H.R. 1779 encourages repayment of the with-

drawn funds to the IRA or pension fund within two years of ending this active duty, and temporarily lifts the contribution cap to equal the amount of the withdrawn funds to allow for full repayment.



Legislative work encompasses many issues

Business

Research and Development Tax Credits

Congressman Nunes sent a letter of support to



Speaker Hastert urging him to bring up legislation that deals with Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credits. California companies lead the nation in areas of research and development, and the continued growth of our state's economy is dependent upon the ability to conduct long-term research projects.

Energy

Sequoia National Park – Kaweah Project

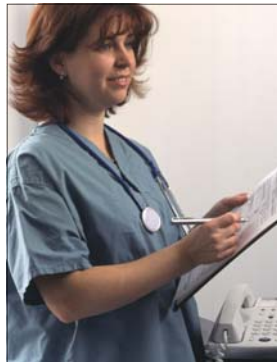
Rep. Nunes submitted testimony to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands on H.R. 3932, legislation he introduced to reauthorize Southern California Edison's use of a hydropower project in Sequoia National Park – known as the Kaweah Project. Four of the project's storage lakes are located within Sequoia National Park. Sections of the Project that are not located in the National Park are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Unfortunately, the Federal Power Act does not allow FERC to issue licenses for

facilities within a National Park. Rep. Nunes is seeking new authorization from Congress to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue two additional 10 year renewals of the existing permit.

Healthcare

Nursing

Congressman Nunes sent a letter of support to the National Association of Workforce Boards supporting the application submitted by Tulare, Kern, Inyo, Kings, and Mono Counties Consortium. The counties are seeking designation as a High Growth Job Training



Initiative model site. The goal of this program is to increase the number of trained nurses in the five county region.

Transportation

The following provisions were included in the Transportation Reauthorization bill (HR 3550) that passed the House:

State Route 99

Designation as a National High Priority Corridor which qualifies SR99 to compete for \$3.3 billion over the next six years.

Widening SR99 between Kingsburg and Selma

\$14 million; widening SR99 between Tulare and Kingsburg – \$3.8 million

County of Tulare

\$7.5 million to improve Farm-to-Market roads

County of Fresno

\$500,000 for the Save Mart Center street improvements

City of Visalia

\$2 million for improvements to Ben Maddox Bridge

City of Clovis

\$200,000 for the Dry Creek and Enterprise Canal Trail

City of Fresno

Authorized a Major Investment Study (MIS) to evaluate both the environmental and economic impact of developing alternative mass transportation within a specified corridor.

Also included in the House bill:

- \$2.5 million for low emission transit vehicles in Fresno.

- Operation Clean Air's project to accelerate the introduction of low-emission vehicles in municipal fleets, public school fleets, and public private partnerships throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Quick Facts

In April, Rep. Nunes wrote to 1,432 constituents in response to their inquiries.

Year to date, Rep. Nunes has responded to 4,530 constituents via the U.S. Mail. Furthermore, since Rep. Nunes was elected to Congress he has responded to 17,433 constituent letters via the U.S. Mail.

Nunes backs federal spending reforms

With growing concerns about deficit spending, Rep. Nunes cosponsored legislation designed to protect the family budget from the explosive growth of the federal budget.

For decades the federal budget process has been

their existence. It uses honest accounting practices that people can actually understand.

By ending budget spending gimmicks and instituting measures to eliminate government waste, fraud, abuse and duplication, this bill will

document with 20 separate sections, spending would be consolidated to a one-page enforceable bill with 4 categories. These categories would be 1) mandatory spending (Medicare/Social Security), 2) Defense/Homeland Security spending, 3) Non-Defense discretionary spending (NEA), and 4) emergency spending (rainy day accounts).

4. Entitlement Programs:

Social Security and Medicare are exempt from across the board cuts in the Budget, but are still open to changes via the authorization process.

5. Spending Clarity: Show the actual increase in programs each year, including increases strictly for inflation.

6. Reinforce Pay-as-you-Go (PAYGO) rules:

Rather than impose new unfunded mandates, all new spending must be offset by tax increases, which will prevent less than truthful accounting of the budget.

7. Review Government Programs:

Set up Congressional commission, with assistance of the President, to find and eliminate areas of waste, fraud, and abuse in our system.

8. Full Financial Disclosure:

The government must account for future costs increase caused by pension plans, retiree pay, etc.

reform the rules that have allowed the federal budget to balloon year after fiscal year.

The Family Budget Protection Act will transform the federal budget from a mere suggestion to an enforceable law and finally places a ceiling on how much money the government can spend. This legislation will ensure that as the government spends less, American families can spend more.

1. Budget Enforcement:

Give the Budget the force of law by having it signed by the President.

2. Spending Reductions:

If spending goes over what the Budget has allowed then across-the-board cuts will be made to all programs except Social Security and Medicare.

3. Spending Categories:

Rather than having a huge

designed to avoid fiscal responsibility, confuse the American taxpayer and grow big government. During the last five years, lawmakers have gone on a spending spree unmatched in our nation's history.

Since 1998, the amount government spends annually per household has risen from \$16,000 to \$21,000, an incredible increase of 22 percent. Just as sobering is the fact that the federal budget has been growing seven times faster than the family budget over the last two generations.

This kind of rabid federal spending is unconscionable and unsustainable. The time has come for meaningful reform.

Based on sound fiscal principles, Rep. Nunes expressed his full support for "The Family Budget Protection Act." It forces government programs to justify



Above: Kindergarteners at Tulare Christian School sing a patriotic song for Rep. Nunes. Below: Rep. Nunes presents a flag to the student government leaders of Tulare Christian School.



Above: Rep. Nunes speaks to students at Westfield Elementary School in Porterville. Below: The congressman talks to Redwood High School students.

